

Kid Curiosity Questions for EWW

May 8, 2019

Below is a list of questions to inspire you!

These are questions kids ask about the natural world. We'd like each question to be something the kids at home want to know the answer to, something they might have asked their parents or teachers. Some of them are easily adapted into episodes for EWW, others are more challenging.

When adapting a question, remember that we want

- Questions that kids can mostly answer on their own using their senses for observation
- Questions that either have a satisfying answer on their own (why do owls sleep during the day?) or can be used to solve a problem in the kids' world (why is honey goopy, learn about viscosity, solves the ketchup problem)

Kid questions that we love:

Why do insects have more legs than I do?

Why are trees so tall?

Why do birds make nests?

Can penguins fly? Or, why CAN'T penguins fly?

Do fish have ears?

Why are vegetables good for you?

Why does old food smell bad?

Why don't cats like swimming?

Why do birds fly together (in flocks/groups)?

Where does my shadow come from?

Why do worms come out in the rain?

Why does spicy food hurt my mouth?

Why can't I just eat bread?

Why don't grown-ups cry?

Why do we laugh?

How do snakes move without legs?

Why do trees lose their leaves in the fall?

How do fish breathe

Why do we need to pee?

Why can't babies talk?

Why do I have to go to bed?

Why don't haircuts hurt?

Why do bees sting?

How do crickets make noise?

Why does it get cold in the winter?

Why can't I have candy for dinner?

What is blood for?

How are cheetahs so fast?

How do flies walk on the ceiling?

Kid questions that we love, but might be harder to adapt:

These questions are a bit more challenging, but you might have a great idea for how to adapt them, or they might inspire you to think of a different question.

Do dolphins have belly buttons?

- Perhaps too narrow, or too hard to answer (no cages or aquariums or fish tanks)

Do spiders have teeth?

- Perhaps too scary, and too simple to answer with a microscope

What are pinecones for? (OR where do pinecones come from?)

- The timescale of pinecones makes this challenging

Why do we burp?

- Perhaps too scatological for PBS

Why does Mr Dog pant?

- Related to “why do we sweat”, is tricky in our intelligent-mammal world, but might work in a way similar to “science of staying warm”

How does food give me energy? (Why do I need to eat?)

- An internal question, not clear how to observe

How does a tree make apples? (where do apples come from?)

- A great question, perhaps similar to “Paper Trail”, but long timescale makes it tricky

Do plants breathe?

- Observing the O/CO cycle would be tricky

How does a seed know what to grow into?

- Hard to answer at the preschool level, and long timescale is tricky

Why do frogs hop?

- No simple answer! <http://www.askabiologist.org.uk/answers/viewtopic.php?id=487>

Do trees have babies?

- Challenging to observe directly over the timescale of the process

Why are frogs green?

- Challenging to give a simple clear answer; not all frogs are green.

Why are there no trees on the moon?

- We love this question, but it is challenging from a curriculum POV

What do clouds taste like? Or What's up with Clouds?

- Difficult from an observation POV.

Why are leaves green?

- Wonderful question, hard to explain at this level, hard for kids to observe chlorophyll.

Where do birds go in the winter?

- Hard for them to observe this in Animal Town

Why do trees grow so slowly?

- Hard to observe, preschoolers have a hard time with long timescales

Why do we get sick?

- Hard to observe pathogens

How do some animals (eg raccoons) see in the dark?

- Might be doable, similar to Owl Girl, but might be too focused on the mechanism("how")

Why do some foods taste good and other yucky?

- Evolutionary arguments are hard to make for preschoolers!

Where does the wind come from?

- Difficult to observe, hard to explain at preschool level

Tempting kid questions that we love, probably not a great fit for EWW

Are unicorns real?

Why do we dream?

How do you know if a lizard is happy?

Can you see what I imagine?